



1 5. The flushing control method as set forth in claim 4, wherein the  
2 repeated number of ink ejection in a latter flushing operation is greater than the  
3 repeated number of ink ejection in a former flushing operation.

1 6. The ink jet recording apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein the  
2 controller drives the pressure generator to vibrate a meniscus of ink in the  
3 nozzle orifice between the respective flushing operations.

1 7. The ink jet recording apparatus as set forth in claim 6, wherein the  
2 meniscus of ink is vibrated such an extent that an ink droplet is not ejected  
3 from the nozzle orifice.

1 8. The ink jet recording apparatus as set forth in claim 6, wherein the  
2 pressure generator is driven at the maximum driving frequency thereof to  
3 vibrate the meniscus of ink.

1 9. The ink jet recording apparatus as set forth in claim 1, the controller  
2 drives the pressure generator to vibrate a meniscus of ink in the nozzle orifice  
3 before an initial flushing operation is performed.

1 10. The ink jet recording apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein  
2 the recording head performs the recording operation while moving in  
3 a main scanning direction; and  
4 the flushing operations are performed when the recording head is in a

1 11. The ink jet recording apparatus as set forth in claim 10, further  
2 comprising a timer, which measures a time period of the stand-by state,  
3 wherein the repeated number of ink ejections in the respective  
4 flushing operation is determined in accordance with the measured stand-by  
5 time period.

1 12. The ink jet recording apparatus as set forth in claim 10, further  
2 comprising a timer, which measures a time period of the stand-by state,  
3 wherein:  
4 the controller drives the pressure generator to vibrate a meniscus of  
5 ink in the nozzle orifice; and  
6 a vibrating number is determined in accordance with the measured  
7 length of the stand-by time period.

1        13        The ink jet recording apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein the  
2        repeated number of ink ejection in the respective flushing operations is  
3        determined in accordance with the type of ejected ink

1 14. The ink jet recording apparatus as set forth in claim 6, wherein a  
2 vibrating number of the pressure generator is determined in accordance with  
3 the type of ejected ink.

1        15.        The ink jet recording apparatus as set forth in claim 9, wherein a  
2        vibrating number of the pressure generator is determined in accordance with  
3        the type of ejected ink.

1        16.        The ink jet recording apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein the  
2        pressure generator is a piezoelectric vibrator which changes the volume of the  
3        pressure generating chamber to vary the pressure of ink therein.

1        17.        The ink jet recording apparatus as set forth in claim 1, the controller  
2        includes:

3 a drive signal generator, which generates a common drive signal  
4 including a flushing waveform configured to perform an ink ejection and a  
5 meniscus vibrating waveform configured to vibrate a meniscus of ink in the  
6 nozzle orifice; and

7 a drive waveform selector, which applies the flushing waveform and  
8 the meniscus vibrating waveform selectively to the pressure generator.